

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-2. (canceled):

Claim 3. (currently amended): The device selecting apparatus according to claim 20, [[1,]] wherein the user interface created by the said user interface creating unit creates a user interface which displays information relating to functions in the integrated profiles according to the categories comprising the integrated profile with respect to a user on a display screen and enables the user to select necessary categories of functions, from the categories displayed on said display screen.

Claim 4. (currently amended): The device selecting apparatus according to claim 21, [[1]] further comprising:

a memory unit, for storing which stores the profiles extracted by said extracting unit;[[,]] wherein[[,]] if the selecting unit cannot select a device having a profile which includes every function selected by the user, the selecting unit selects a device having a profile which includes a subset of every function selected by the user, when said selecting unit has consulted the stored profiles and determined that there is no device comprising all the categories which have been selected via the user interface, said selecting unit selects said device out of said devices which comprises a part of the selected categories.

Claim 5. (currently amended): The device selecting apparatus according to claim 4, wherein if the user changes a selection of a set of functions from the integrated profile, the selecting unit reselects the device to be used based on the selection and the table.

~~when a new category has been selected via said user interface after said device has been selected, said selecting unit reselects said device by including the category which has been selected this time by priority in said part of the categories.~~

Claim 6. (original): The device selecting apparatus according to claim 19, [[1,]] wherein said devices are printers.

Claims 7-8. (canceled):

Claim 9. (currently amended): The device selecting method according to claim 23, [[7,]] wherein [[a]] ~~the user interface is created in the step of creating a user interface which displays information relating to functions in the integrated profile according to the categories comprising the integrated profile with respect to a user on a display screen to enable and enables the user to select necessary categories of functions from the categories displayed on said display screen.~~

Claim 10. (currently amended): The device selecting method according to claim 24, [[7]] ~~further comprising a step of providing the profiles beforehand, wherein[[,]] in said step of selecting, if there is no device having a profile which includes every function selected by the user, said step of selecting selects a device having a profile which includes a subset of every function selected by the user. when the stored profiles have been consulted and it has been determined that there is no device comprising all the categories which have been selected via the user interface,~~

~~said device out of said devices which comprises a part of the selected categories is selected in the step of selecting a device.~~

Claim 11. (currently amended): The device selecting method according to claim 10, further comprising:

~~re-executing said step of selecting if the user changes a set of functions selected from the integrated profile. wherein when a new category has been selected via said user interface after said device has been selected, said device is reselected in the step of selecting a device by including the category which has been selected this time by priority in said part of the categories.~~

Claim 12. (currently amended): The device selecting method according to claim 22, [[7,]] wherein said devices are printers.

Claim 13-14. (canceled):

Claim 15. (currently amended): The computer readable medium according to claim 26, [[13,]] wherein said steps cause [[a]] the user interface is created in the step of creating a user interface which to display displays information relating to functions in the integrated profile according to the categories comprising the integrated profile with respect to a user on a display screen to enable and enables the user to select necessary categories of functions, from the categories displayed on said display screen.

Claim 16. (currently amended): The computer readable medium according to claim 26,
[[13]] ~~further comprising a step of providing the profiles beforehand, wherein[[,] in
said step of selecting, if there is no device having a profile which includes every
function selected by the user, said step of selecting selects a device having a profile
which includes a subset of every function selected by the user. when the stored profiles
have been consulted and it has been determined that there is no device comprising all
the categories which have been selected via the user interface, said device out of said
devices which comprises a part of the selected categories is selected in the step of
selecting a device.~~

Claim 17. (original): The computer readable medium according to claim 27, [[16,]]
wherein the steps further comprise:

~~re-executing said step of selecting if the user changes a set of functions selected from
the integrated profile. when a new category has been selected via said user interface
after said device has been selected, said device is reselected in the step of selecting a
device by including the category which has been selected this time by priority in said
part of the categories.~~

Claim 18. (original): The computer readable medium according to claim 25, [[13,]]
wherein said devices are printers.

Claim 19. (new): A device detecting apparatus for detecting an appropriate device from a number of devices connected to a network, said apparatus comprising:

a detecting unit which detects all the devices connected to said network;

an extracting unit which extracts from the devices, corresponding profiles, each of said profiles comprising information related to functions of said devices; and

an integrated profile creating unit which integrates the profiles of said devices so as to create an integrated profile, said integrated profile being a profile of an ideal virtual device having every function of said devices.

Claim 20. (new): The device detecting apparatus according to claim 19, further comprising:

a user interface creating unit which creates a user interface enabling necessary functions to be selected from the functions of the integrated profile created by said integrated profile creating unit.

Claim 21. (new): The device detecting apparatus according to claim 20, further comprising:

a table creating unit which creates a table related to a priority order of said devices, the priority order in which said devices are preferably used; and

a selecting unit which selects a device as a device to be used out of said devices based on the selected functions and the table.

Claim 22. (new): A method for selecting an appropriate device in a network, the method comprising:

detecting a plurality of devices connected to the network;

extracting, from each of the plurality of devices, a plurality of profiles, each of the profiles comprising information related to functions of a corresponding one of said plurality of devices;

integrating said plurality of profiles to create an integrated profile;

wherein said integrated profile is a profile of an ideal virtual device having every function of said devices.

Claim 23. (new): The method of claim 22, further comprising:

creating a user interface for permitting a user to select a set of functions from the integrated profile.

Claim 24. (new): The method of claim 23, further comprising:

creating a table, the table specifying a preferred priority for use of the devices; and

selecting one of the devices based on the set of functions selected by the user from the user interface and the preferred priority specified by the table.

Claim 25. (new): A computer readable medium for storing instructions, which when executed by a computer, causes the computer to perform the steps of:

detecting a plurality of devices connected to a network;
extracting, from each of the plurality of devices, a plurality of profiles, each of the profiles comprising information related to functions of a corresponding one of said plurality of devices;
integrating said plurality of profiles to created an integrated profile;
wherein said integrated profile is a profile of an ideal virtual device having every function of said devices.

Claim 26. (new): The computer readable medium of claim 25, wherein the steps further comprise:

creating a user interface for permitting a user to select a set of functions from the integrated profile.

Claim 27. (new): The computer readable medium of claim 26, wherein the steps further comprise:

creating a table, the table specifying a preferred priority for use of the devices; and selecting one of the devices based on the set of functions selected by the user from the user interface and the preferred priority specified by the table.